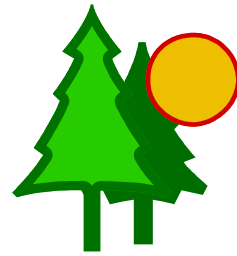


NEWAC

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A partnership with the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis, and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.

January 13, 2014

Call to Order: Chair Raukar called the NEWAC meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth, Minnesota.

Present: *Brian Napstad*, Terry Neff - Aitkin County; Annalee Garletz, Association of Minnesota Counties; *Thomas Proulx*, Heather Cunningham – Carlton County; *Sue Hakes*, Tim Nelson – Cook County; Doug Morris – Crow Wing County; Dale Olson, *Wade Pavleck* – Koochiching County; Curt Gadacz, *Pete Walsh* – Lake County; Nate Anderson, Mark Florin – MN Department of Revenue; Hank Fisher, Heidi Kroening, Mark Rust – MPCA; Brita Sailer, Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM); Diane Hildreth, *Steve Raukar*, Terry Soderberg, Ted Troolin - St. Louis County; *Jim Aird*, Jack Ezell, and Heidi Ringhofer - WLSSD

***names in italics indicate voting members*

Chair Raukar introduced MN Department of Revenue staff members Nate Anderson and Mark Florin. Florin stated that the Department of Revenue has been getting calls and wanted to update the group about sales tax. Cities, counties and townships are exempt from sales tax on most purchases. The Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) has not changed. Any questions please contact staff at the Department of Revenue.

Approval of NEWAC Minutes – October 14, 2013: Upon motion by Commissioner Napstad and second by Commissioner Hakes the minutes of the October 14, 2013, meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report: Heather Cunningham, Carlton County handed out a copy of the October 14, 2013, thru January 13, 2014 financial report. There has been no financial activity. The current balance on hand is \$1,194.52. Upon motion by Commissioner Walsh and seconded by Commissioner Napstad, the financial report was approved as presented.

Chair Raukar moved the order of the agenda and put Items by County next to accommodate Annalee Garletz's schedule change.

Items by Counties and WLSSD:

Aitkin – Staff are compiling information for annual reports and the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is going to the County Board for final approval this month.

Carlton – Four hundred transfer station customers completed a customer service survey. Cunningham stated that seventy percent of the people using the transfer station paid with cash and staff will continue to accept cash as a payment option. Some changes implemented included two staff personnel will be working the site at all times, the Auditor's office will be doing random cash counts, and security cameras have been installed. The transfer station will be collecting fluorescent tubes year round. Staff is evaluating accepting organic wastes and will be sending out a request for bids in the spring.

Cook - The SWMP will be going to the County Board for approval in February. One pharmaceutical collection box has been installed and a location for a second box in Grand Portage is pending. Staff are working with public health nurses to place Sharps collection containers in the County courthouse and staff are also working with the two area pharmacies and hospital personnel to add additional Sharps collection containers at other locations in the County. The hours at the recycling center will be extended this season.

Crow Wing – The SWMP was approved in November, 2013. Staff are completing annual reports. The County Board will be evaluating all programs, currently the focus is on recycling programs. Crow Wing

County gives grant monies to area cities and the County Board is making sure all programs are running as efficiently as possible.

Koochiching – Improvements at the transfer station are being finalized. Staff had been looking into a Sharps collection program, but due to liability issues this did not work out. Staff will continue to hand out information on the proper disposal of Sharps. Staff will be reviewing the commercial service fees in 2014 and will contact other counties for information on fees. Staff will be setting up a schedule for the 2014 household hazardous waste collections.

Lake - County staff will be conducting a feasibility study for future demolition landfill expansion. Staff will be working with consultants on plans to build a new recycling center and a household hazardous waste facility.

St. Louis – The SWMP is completed and the landfill permit has been submitted to the MPCA. Expansion of the leachate field at the Regional Landfill is planned for 2014. More capacity is needed to manage nitrogen generated in the landfill. The Department is looking at purchasing land and/or making a land swap to be able to construct and develop another leachate pond. The County Board raised mixed solid waste (msw) tipping fees to \$42/ton and demo tipping fees increased to \$40/ton; this is the first increase in tipping fees since 1995. St. Louis County has added gabled and aseptic cartons to the recycling stream. The Department has a Green Corps representative currently working on school recycling activities in St. Louis County. Department staff will also look at ways to improve event recycling. St. Louis County is hauling demolition waste to the Waste Management facility in Canyon and also to Itasca County. The Department added a new canister site. The seven pharmaceutical collection drop-off sites have been extremely successful.

WLSSD – The SWMP is expected to be completed by March. A strategic retreat with the Board of Directors is planned for May. Topic items to be discussed include recommendations from the SWMP, discussion on the future direction of collection of solid waste fees, and staff will review the State's report on the bottle bill legislation.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Updates – Heidi Kroenning updated the group on enforcement issues. Four enforcement positions were left vacant due to recent retirements/promotions and the Agency is in the process of hiring for these positions.

Mark Rust updated the group on legislative items. There will be a legislative hearing tomorrow and the focus will be on solid waste trends. Discussions about the waste composition study, waste reduction, recycling, organics, evaluation of the beverage container report, generation trends, materials management and the compost rule are expected to take place. These discussions will help set the stage for any significant changes for the 2015 session.

The 60 day public notice comment period for the compost rule started January 6th. These are formal comments and if anyone has submitted comments in the past, you will need to resubmit them during this comment period. The timeline to get the rule adopted should take between three and six months.

There have been ongoing E-waste discussions about the current law. A meeting has been scheduled for January 23rd in Stearns County to resolve issues such as manufacturers' responsibility, percentages, and aspects of the law that are not working as intended. Major e-waste changes are expected in 2015 and e-waste will be an important topic for the 2015 legislative session. Discussion from the group on e-waste followed.

Rust gave a “ReUSE Minnesota” handout to the group. ReUSE Minnesota is a non-profit organization and Rust spoke about how to join, the economic value to Minnesota, and encouraged counties and cities to get involved with this organization.

Rust stated the Agency sent a letter informing counties about the status of the Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) reporting process. The Agency had been commissioned to evaluate the entire reporting process and as a result the facility reporting system is now online for direct entry. The County portion is not yet available on line and Counties were instructed to report as they have in the past for the 2013 calendar year. The online system is expected to be operational in 2015. Discussion from the group followed.

Rust stated the Agency is currently doing a materials recovery facility (MRF) infrastructure study on the status of both public and private facilities in the state. Agency staff are evaluating the current state of MRF infrastructure, capacity, issues with single sort MRF, and further processing opportunities. Discussion from the group followed.

Rust provided background on a regional waste management capacity report study. The last study was done twenty years ago and staff will be doing a second study to evaluate the state of solid waste and regional capacity. This will give the agency an updated look at the system and help determine what direction to go from a policy standpoint. Rust will update the group when results of the study become available. Regional disposal capacity and long term liability issues were discussed by the group.

Rust informed the group that six applications were received for the capital assistance grant program. Agency staff will evaluate the funding needs for infrastructure development for publically owned facilities around the state.

Russ commented to the group on burn barrels and illegal disposal. Agency staff continue to work with counties to pass no burn resolutions. Recently, Kanabec and Isanti Counties have passed resolutions to ban all burning in the county.

SWAA Items: Upcoming SWAA activities ~

Annalee Garletz, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) stated she will send out an update to NEWAC members after the Legislative hearings tomorrow on the Environment and Natural Resource Committee. AMC and the Solid Waste Administrator's Association (SWAA) submitted a letter with regards to beverage container disposal. The report is on the MPCA website and Garletz will send out the website link to the group.

Last legislative session, AMC and SWAA staff worked with the Department of Agriculture on completing a waste pesticide study. The main purpose of the study will be to breakdown what pesticide wastes are coming into the program and how Counties report this information. One of the goals is to make the reporting process less complicated. This will be discussed in greater detail at the SWAA Executive Board meeting in St. Cloud on January 23rd. Garletz stated that the waste pesticide product stewardship program has been very successful throughout Minnesota. Garletz reminded solid waste administrators to update their County's information that AMC shares with area legislators. The registration for SWAA membership has been sent out. Membership is \$50 per year and affiliate membership is \$25 per year. Training registration is also available.

Recycling: Brita Sailer, Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) gave a Powerpoint presentation to the group. The presentation included an overview of RAM, RAM's mission, issues addressed by RAM, changes to the organization, and the 2014 Board of Directors. RAM is a non-profit organization that promotes research, conservation, waste prevention, re-use, recycling, and composting while using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods. RAM currently has over 265 members. RAM has an educational focus and is in partnership with organizations all across MN to increase recycling rates and help educate policy makers and the general public. Sailer encouraged people from greater Minnesota to sign up for a RAM board position. Sailer reported on current RAM partnership projects which include: America Recycles Day, Recycle More MN, Recycle Your Holidays (holiday light recycling program), Message in a Bottle, It's In the Bag (plastic bag and shrink wrap recycling program), RAM/SWANA conference, rain barrel/compost bin sales; e-waste collection boxes and laptop recycling kits. Sailer stated one of the focus areas of RAM is to expand service and to offer more forums and training opportunities to its members in greater Minnesota. Questions from the group followed. Contact Brita Sailer at brita@recycleminnesota.org, Recycle More Minnesota at www.recyclemoreminnesota.org or earth911.com for more recycling resources.

Troolin stated there will be a tentative Solid Waste Officers of the Northeast Region (SWONER) meeting planned for Friday, February 7th. Location is yet to be determined. Agenda items will include regional recycling programs and paint care program. Contact Troolin with additional agenda items.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next NEWAC meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Monday, April 14th at 10:00 a.m. at Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth.

Adjourn: Upon motion by Commissioner Pavleck, and second by Commissioner Napstad, the meeting was adjourned.